36. Construction of a Bridge in Kozhukully Village.

* **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** (*Urakam*).—*"This Council recommends to the Government to construct a bridge over the Manali river in Kozhukully Village"*.

Sir, this is a local grievance but nevertheless a very long-standing grievance. I have brought it to the notice of this Government several times and Government have been pleased to answer always that they will look into the matter. This resolution is intended only to remind them of the promise they have previously given and to request them to carry it out. Sir, there is a river in Kozhukully Village running from north to south. There are thousands of acres of paddy fields on the eastern side of the river adjoining a forest area. That place is not fit for living and the people are compelled to live on the western side of the river. The cattle actually required for cultivation of paddy also could not be kept on the eastern side of the river because of wild beasts. That river will, unfortunately or fortunately, always be in floods. Not only in the rainy season it willl be in floods but in the summer season also on account of the dearth of water in that locality it will be bunded up and it will be full, so much so the cultivators of these thousands of acres who live on the western side find it extremely difficult to cross the river and also carry their cattle over the river. There is no arrangement for ferry also in that locality. There are very few boats there and it is a sight for the Gods to see at this part of the year particularily men and women and even children carrying sheaves of paddy on their heads over a bridge improvised for the purpose constructed by local contribution of the people of that area and that constructed only with arecanut trees. It is not infrequently that they fall from that bridge. There have been cases also where that bridge has given way and caused hardship to a large number of people. I was originally asking for a cart bridge there because that can tap the timber resources of the forest very conveniently and will give great convenience to a large number of people. When I found that it was very costly I began to ask for at least a foot bridge over which they could safely pass. I am sure it would not cost more than 3 to 4 thousand rupees and which can be done in no time. I therefore pray that Government will take this matter seriously and do the needful.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*).—I second it.

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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* **Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—Sir, it is true that the Hon'ble Member for Urakam has been requesting for the construction of this bridge for some time. But the Government enquired into this question and found that the villages served by this bridge are after all not very important villages. They are situated in the midst of a forest and the population is small. Further the river which the Hon'ble Member referred to in his speech is the Manali river. There is a bridge at Puthur which is not more than 2 miles from the place referred to by him. Therefore Government thought that it was not advisable to spend 18 thousand rupees for this bridge to such a comparatively unimportant locality. This matter was also looked into by the Members of the Road Board and they were not able to find money for the construction of this bridge with the limited funds at their disposal. Therefore the question of the construction of this bridge has to wait till the programme of the Road Board is completed. That is the Government position.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Pazhayannur).*—What will be the cost of the foot-bridge?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—About 8 thousand rupees.

* **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Sir, the bridge that is two miles away down the river will not serve the purpose for which I ask for a bridge. Government has not really understood the position. Is it not a fact that there are about 3 to 4 thousand acres of land if not more, on the eastern side of the river and for the purpose of cultivating those lands people have to go from the western side every day and take their cattle also? Is it not a fact that on the eastern side of the river there are not houses and proper stables to keep the cattle? Is it not malarial too?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—I am extremely doubtful whether there are 4,000 acres of cultivated lands in that locality. Even then, the Puthur road and bridge should serve that area to a great extent.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—In that case the people have to walk 2 miles down the river. There is no proper road also. Then they have to cross the river and then walk another 2 miles, thus doing 4 miles in all. Is it after all very difficult for the Government to find funds to give relief

* Speeches not corrected by the Hon'ble Members.

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to the people there? Is it not dangerous to allow people to cross a flooded river daily? Is it not the duty of the Government to supply the prime necessities of the people? You find no difficulty to construct parks here. There was no provision for the construction of parks this year. I should not be thought that I am against giving parks and such other things to this town. But there was absolutely no provision for the widening of the bridge also here. In the course of one month, in the twinkling of the eye, you have it widened at what cost you do not know. Sir, you have to consider that Government exist for the purpose of the people in the villages also. You get your money from them. You spend that money as you please for the luxuries of the town people. The people of the villages have also to live and have to exist. I say it is their right to have it. I do not know how the Government which was solicitous enough two or three years back to look into the question now turns up and says 'you cannot have it for another five years'. Is that the way of treating the villagers? Is that the way of treating the people who are already hit hard on account of the economic depression? Sir, if you care for the welfare of these people, I request you to go and see for yourself the place, whatever be the results of this resolution. I never wanted this to be pressed. But after hearing the Goverment's reply, I think it is my duty, whether I lose it or gain it, to press it. It is none of my concern. Here is a case where I am asking for a simple primary need of a large section of the people, nearly a thousand cultivators, who take their lives in their hands twice a day and take the risk of taking their cattle also across the river. Here is a Government who were promising to do it. Here is a Government who now say that it is not necessary. Here is a Government who have enough funds for luxuries. Especially in view of the fact that the Government have not chosen to contradict the facts I have pointed out, it is callousness on the part of the Government, it is cruelty to these people, not to speak of their duty, that they do not attend to a work like this. I therefore request the Hon'ble Members of this House to support me for a small grant for the alleviation of the suffering of the people of that locality. I ask not for an eighteen thousand rupees road bridge but only for a foot-bridge. I want only the safety of the people.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas, South).*—How many people have died of accidents?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—I have not the statistics with me. But the question is not whether they have died but it is whether they are taking the risk every day by

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taking their lives in their hands. I therefore appeal to the Hon'ble Members of this House to give their support to this resolution.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—If we agree to this we will be committing ourselves to construct bridges at every one and a half miles. This place is only two miles from Puthur.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—It is on account of the particular location of that village I want this bridge and not on account of the distance.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—Are there not several cases like this in the State?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—Yes, there are many.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി *(Muslims).*— സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ബ: ഉരകം മെമ്പർ അത്യുത്തകരമായി വിവരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള അവശതകൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന അനേകം വില്ലേജുകൾ കൊച്ചിയിലുണ്ട്. ചേരാനെല്ലൂർ പഞ്ചായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട മൂന്നു വില്ലേജുകൾ പതിനെട്ടു തുരുത്തുകളായിട്ടാണ് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നത്. ഈ തുരുത്തുകളിൽ അധികവും നടവഴികൾക്കുപോലും പുറമ്പോക്കുസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലാത്തവയാണ്. ഇന്നലെ രാവിലെ ഇവിടെ നടന്ന ചോദ്യോത്തര സമയത്തു ടി പഞ്ചായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട കോതാട് എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു ഒരിഞ്ചു സ്ഥലം പുറമ്പോക്കില്ലെന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടു പറകയുണ്ടായി. രണ്ടു മൈൽ നീളവും രണ്ടര മൈലോളം വീതിയും വരുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഒരിഞ്ചു സ്ഥലം പുറമ്പോക്കില്ലെന്നുവന്നാൽ അവിടത്തെ നിവാസികളുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഗതികൾ എത്ര ദയനീയമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. ഇതുപോലെ പുറമ്പോക്കുസ്ഥലങ്ങളില്ലാത്ത അനവധി സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ആ വില്ലേജിലുണ്ട്. ബ: ഉരകം മെമ്പർ അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ എറണാകുളം പട്ടണപരിഷ്കരണവിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു അനവധി പണം ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നുവെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു ആക്ഷേപിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ ആക്ഷേപം അടിസ്ഥാനമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ൧൯൦൦ മുതൽ ഈ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിക്കു യാതൊരു സഹായധനവും ഗവൺമെണ്ടു ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ടങ്കുറോഡുകൾക്കുള്ള ചിലവുകളിൽ ഒരു പുരുങ്ങിയ സംഖ്യ മാത്രമേ കൊല്ലംതോറും തരുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഈ പട്ടണത്തിൽനിന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടു പിരിച്ചെടുക്കുന്ന അനേകായിരം ഉറുപ്പിക കൊല്ലംതോറും വില്ലേജുകളിലാണ് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു ചിലവുചെയ്തുവരുന്നത്. ഇതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കാക്ഷേപമോ അസൂയയോ ഇല്ല. എറണാകുളം പട്ടണത്തിൽനിന്നും വർഷംതോറും ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു ലഭിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യയുടെ തോതും ഇവിടെ

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ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്ന കണക്കുകളും വിവരിച്ചുംകൊണ്ടു ബഃ എറണാകുളം തെക്കെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലം മെമ്പർ കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറു സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ഒരു പ്രസംഗം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിവുള്ളതാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഈ പട്ടണപരിഷ്കരണത്തെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള വാദത്തിനു വീണ്ടും ഒരു മുപടി പറയണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല. പട്ടണങ്ങളും വില്ലേജുകളും തമ്മിൽ ഒരു മത്സരമുണ്ടാകത്തക്ക പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾചെയ്തു അവരെ തമ്മിൽ വൈരികളാക്കിത്തീർക്കുവാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കുന്ന മനസ്ഥിതി ആദരിക്കത്തക്കതല്ല. രാജ്യങ്ങൾതമ്മിലുള്ള മത്സരങ്ങളിൽ ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നവരായി ഇവിടെ അധികംപേർ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു എനിക്കു വിശ്വാസമില്ല. രാജ്യരക്ഷക്കോ, രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തിനോ ഈ സഭയുടെ പ്രോഗമനത്തിന്നതനോയുമോ ഈ മനസ്ഥിതി ആദരണീയമല്ല. അതിനാൽ ഇത്തരം മനസ്ഥിതികൾക്കു കാര്യമായ ഒരു വ്യതിചലനം അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നാണ് ബഃ ആ മെമ്പരോടു എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു.

Motion was put and negatived.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—A Poll, Sir.

POLL.

For.	Against.
1. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan	1. Mr. George Parakkal
2. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim	2. Mr. V. K. Kutty
3. Mr. K. S. Panickar	3. Mr. A. V. Moothedan
4. Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty	4. Mr. P. Raman Menon
5. Mr E. Ikkanda Warriar	5. Mr. K. S. Manickam
6. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni	6. Mr. M. A. Sankunny
	7. Mr. V. Krishnan Vydiyar
	8. Mr. A. Narayana Menon
	9. Mr. A. Sankara Menon.
	10. Mr. M. Sivarama Menon.
	11. Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
	12. Rama Varmha Tampuran
	13. Mr. K. Krishna Warriar
	14. Mr. K. Narayana Menon
	15. Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar
	16. Mr. T. Narayana Menon
	17. Dr. E. S. R. Menon
	18. Mr. A. L. Devassy

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19. Rao Sahib I. N. Menon
20. Mr. Thomas Manjuran
21. Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao
22. Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar
23. Mr. K. Achyuta Menon
24. Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar

Resolution was therefore lost.

The House rose for the day at 4-45 p. m.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

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